

Annual Plan - Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act & Youthful Offender Block Grant (JJCPA-YOBG)



Annual Plan

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**County Name: Nevada**

**Contact Name: Mike Sypnicki**

**Telephone Number: (530) 470-2770**

**E-Mail Address: [mike.sypnicki@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:mike.sypnicki@co.nevada.ca.us)**

**Juvenile Justice Plan**

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## **Part I. Service Needs, Priorities & Strategy**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(A))

The probation department encourages and embraces a no wrong door approach to juvenile services. There is a strong belief that youth in the community need not be brought into the criminal justice system just to access services that could potentially help them thrive. Our goal, as a system that's primary focus is the well-being of the youth in the community is to make every possible effort to divert youth away from the system. This includes youth that have had law enforcement contacts and referrals due to law violations. Our current rate of referrals to petitions is 342. This demonstrates our commitment to serving all youth of Nevada County without artificial barriers to access.

The realities of providing a robust continuum of services to youth in a rural county include not having the luxury of the same economies of scale that larger counties enjoy. The population is spread out across the diverse geography of the county and it is difficult to draw themes or patterns relative to issues facing youth given the traditional

processes of identifying youth in need of service. Also, the ability to attract the breadth of community-based organizations necessary to serve all the needs present in the local youth is problematic. This is the reason probation has been well suited as the clearing house for service brokerage and provision.

#### **A. Assessment of Existing Services**

**Include here an assessment of existing law enforcement, probation, education, mental health, health, social services, drug and alcohol, and youth services resources that specifically target at-risk juveniles, juvenile offenders, and their families.**

#### **Law Enforcement**

Each summer the Grass Valley Police Department operates the G.R.E.A.T. Summer Youth Academy, a youth prevention program. This is a week-long program that Probation assists to inspire and empower a child with the life skills to become successful. They encounter new experiences to form their life path, build self-confidence and develop leadership skills to become responsible role models within their community. Lesson plans include effective communication, active listening and empathy, anger management, refusal skills, decision making and goal setting.

#### **Collaborative services - Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T.)**

SMART (Special Multi-Agency Resource Team) is a multi-disciplinary team that meets weekly to discuss high risk children in the community. The child's family is invited to the meeting. The team consists of Behavioral Health, Probation, Child Welfare, Public Health, the Schools, Cal-Works, Family Preservation and Nevada County Wraparound providers. Children are referred by the schools. The goal of the team is to keep children safe in the community and succeeding in school. The SMART committee and the family talk about the child's strengths, the family and community's concerns and they come up with a plan to help the child.

### **Family Urgent Response System**

Probation is a partner in the California Department of Social Services FURS program, which is a free 24/7 hotline for current or former foster youth and caregivers to call and get immediate help for any big or small issues. The collaboration includes Probation, Social Services, Behavioral Health, Superintendent of Schools, and the Family Resource Center. The goal is to reduce the need for a 911 call or law enforcement involvement and the needless criminalization of traumatized youth, reduce hospitalization and placement into congregate care, promote healing as a family, and to provide a safe and judgement-free space for youth and caregivers. Preventing placement disruptions and preserving the relationship between the child or youth and their caregiver is of paramount concern.

### **Educational Services**

#### **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)**

Nevada County uses a PBIS model to address school behaviors. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an organized, data-driven system of interventions, strategies and supports that positively impact school-wide and individualized behavior planning. PBIS focuses on the development and implementation of proactive procedure and practices to prevent problem behavior by providing a systematic framework of school-wide systems and individualized supports. Focusing on a proactive model, PBIS utilizes a three-tier behavioral model including Universal, Secondary and Tertiary or Intensive. Universal or Primary Prevention focuses on school and classroom wide systems for all students, staff, and settings with an emphasis on prevention and reinforcement of positive social and academic behaviors. Secondary focuses on individual students and/or specific groups of students demonstrating at-risk behavior. Finally, the Tertiary Prevention or intensive tier provides support for students that need specific, specialized, and individualized systems addressing consistent high-risk behavior. The four critical features of SW-PBIS include: Locally meaningful and culturally relevant outcomes, empirically supported practices, systems to support implementation, and data to monitor effective and equitable implementation and to guide decision making.

**Trauma-Informed Restorative Instructional Practice** The focus of this practice is to acknowledge pain and provide necessary boundaries and new directives to modify behavior, this is referred to as Restorative practice. Although resolution strategies manifest themselves differently at each school site, they maintain a general pattern: Students must confront individuals they've harmed and vice versa. At the root of the shift is a changed belief system. It's no longer the understanding that punitive, strict punishment will rectify student behavior, creating a healthier learning environment. While suspension rates have worsened recently (except for the Covid-19 pandemic time when kids were not on campuses), the restorative practice program has proven to be beneficial. Generally, where it's been conducted over longer stretches of time suspensions and expulsions have dropped, and school cultures have improved.

### **The School Attendance Review Board (SARB)**

California compulsory education law requires everyone between the ages of 6 and 18 years of age to attend school. Some students, however, violate compulsory education laws and have a pattern of unexcused absences. A student who is absent from school for 10% or more of the days he or she has been enrolled in school is considered "chronically absent" and may also be referred to SARB.

SARB is composed of representatives from various youth-serving agencies, help truant or recalcitrant students and their parents or guardians solve school attendance and behavior problems using available school and community resources. The goal of the SARB is to keep students in school and provide them with a meaningful educational experience. The SARB has the authority, when necessary, to refer students (ages 13 to 18) and their parents or guardians to court. The School Attendance Review Board is normally composed of: County Superintendent of Schools, a representative from the District Attorney's Office, Mental/Behavior Health Department, Law Enforcement/Probation Department, Child Protective Services, Nevada County School Board, and the SARB Coordinator from Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office.

### **School Attendance Mediation (SAM)**

SAM is a team process to mediate between the school and the students and their families to assist in remedying attendance issues. The team may consist of the family court judge, a district administrator, a school site principal, the school resource officer, and a probation officer as needed. Students and their families will initially meet with the team and discuss various options and plans to be set into motion. Efforts in the mediation process may include: Referrals for assessments, mandated community service, attendance of community held counseling services, visiting various county agencies, transfer of schools, delay/revocation of the student driver's license, or a referral to probation as a 601(b). Student progress will be monitored and follow up meetings may be scheduled.

### **Behavioral Health Services**

#### **Alcohol and Drug Services**

Juvenile Probation and local treatment providers collaborated to establish an alcohol and drug screening, assessment, and referral process. Through the process, youth with an identified risk factor in the category of substance use/abuse are provided an alcohol and drug screening. Following the assessment, treatment recommendations and referrals to contracted community-based or county service providers are made. Through collaboration, youth may receive alcohol and/or drug treatment services covered by Medi-Cal if eligible and if they are not otherwise covered by medical insurance that includes these services. Any youth living in Nevada County who is experiencing alcohol and/or drug problems can be referred to programming or refer themselves. Services are provided based upon assessed needs.

#### **Mental Health Services**

Nevada County provides a full array of culturally competent and linguistically proficient mental health services for children, youth, adults, and older adults. Through a variety of county-operated and contracted providers, the county offers prevention and early intervention, outpatient, acute, subacute, and residential care, crisis intervention and stabilization services, and inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

## **Community Resources**

The following community resources are available in the specified areas of the County of Nevada. Probation has provided information on these services and organizations as a reference.

NEVADA COUNTY Alcohol and Drug Community Based Counseling Family Counseling Trauma/Mental Health Human Trafficking Juvenile Domestic Violence

- *Granite Wellness Center*
- *Granite Wellness Center*
- *Common Goals Inc.*
- *Victor Community Support Services*

*Nevada County Children's Mental Health*

*Nevada County Behavioral Health*

*Nevada County Family Resource Centers, Grass Valley*

*Truckee House (formerly Family Resource Center), Truckee*

- *Bright Futures for Youth*
- *CASA - Child Advocates*
- *Environmental Alternatives-Family Services*
- *Sierra Forever Families*

**Describe what approach will be used to facilitate collaboration among the organizations listed above and support the integration of services.**

### **Local Action Strategy**

The following juvenile justice action strategy provides for a continuum of responses to juvenile crime and demonstrates a collaborative, integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk and justice-involved youth.

The Nevada County Juvenile Justice System continues to place a strong emphasis on the principles of risk-need-responsivity in response to juvenile crime and delinquency. From the first point of entry into the Juvenile Justice System, efforts to divert youth from the system and preserve the family are a priority. A continuum of intermediate sanctions for youth under Probation's supervision mitigates the need for formal court proceedings and is designed to assist youth in redirecting negative behaviors and successfully completing probation. Targeted strategies place emphasis on prevention and early intervention, child and family focus and teaming, a cross-systems approach to programs and service delivery, collaboration, and trauma-informed care.

### **Functional Family Probation (FFP)**

FFP was created as a case management practice for juvenile justice workers who are charged with supervision of youth in a community setting. FFP is based on what we know works. It is informed by the four decades of scientific investigation about how we can engage and motivate high risk teens and their families to reduce youth recidivism. It has been implemented on a statewide and county basis in communities as diverse as Los Angeles, Sacramento, the states of Utah and Washington, and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. It has also been modified for use with child welfare supervision in experimental designs, most recently in NYC.

Traditional supervision models are also commonly organized to monitor and intervene with only the adjudicated or identified youth. A strength of FFP is that it employs the support of family and/or community members. By strengthening family functioning and creating broader working relationships, we greatly increase the likelihood for long term success with the youth we're charged to supervise. The data we have accrued shows that by enlisting the support of the essential people in a youth's lives and having them work together we can begin to alter the context from which problem behaviors occur.

Many families involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems are challenged by a host of stresses. In FFP we make every effort to uncover family and youth strengths so they can address obstacles as opposed to finding and responding to them ourselves.

The Functional Family Probation process includes protocols, practices, services and supports to:

- Treat the juvenile, family, and community as a whole.
- Increase protective factors with the juvenile and family.
- Reduce high risk factors with the juvenile and family.
- Reduce juvenile criminal recidivism.

FFP Protocols were implemented in 2019. The FFP process may include a social worker, probation officer and system partners who meet with the youth and their family to identify their needs and strengths and leverage available services in the community. Based on the needs identified, youth may be referred to mental health treatment or community services to prevent further involvement in juvenile justice. Through this process, youth can be diverted from the system entirely and court involvement can be prevented. When a youth appears eligible for services from both Probation and Child Welfare Services, both agencies will collaborate on a joint assessment and single recommendation for the court regarding which status will serve the best interests of the youth and the protection of society. The court will determine which status is appropriate for the youth.

### **Family Urgent Response System**

Probation is a partner in the California Department of Social Services FURS program, which is a free 24/7 hotline for current or former foster youth and caregivers to call and get immediate help for any big or small issues. The collaboration includes Probation, Social Services, Behavioral Health, Superintendent of Schools, and the Family Resource Center. The goal is to reduce the need for a 911 call or law enforcement involvement and the needless criminalization of traumatized youth, reduce hospitalization and placement into congregate care, promote healing as a family, and to provide a safe and judgement-free space for youth and caregivers. Preventing placement disruptions and preserving the relationship between the child or youth and their caregiver is of paramount concern.

### **Nevada County Youth Center**

In December of 2020 the Youth Center closed its doors after a steady decline of the daily population. Since its opening, it has never been at capacity and over the last year the average daily population was less than three youth and yet maintained 27 county staff. This facility was designed to hold sixty youth to accommodate the projected population growth in the county. However, contrary to the prior population growth projections for Nevada County between 2000 to 2020, demographic data from the United States Census Bureau revealed that the population of Nevada County plateaued in the last decade, going from 98,205 in 2009 to 99,715 in 2019. This, in addition to Nevada County's investment in collaborative alternative strategies to working with youth and families to resolve conflict and provide rehabilitative opportunities, has resulted in a substantially reduced need for secure detention of juveniles. Due to the declining population in secure detention, the average daily cost per youth has increased by over 200% over the past decade. Over several years, Probation has sought to reduce costs caused by the steady decline in the daily Youth Center census by leasing juvenile hall beds to other counties.

In the Alternative:

Nevada County Probation anticipates a modification and/or re-allocation of YOBG Funds to programs such as officer training, ART/CBT and MRT support, rewards/incentives matrix programming, advanced educational opportunities, Family Findings Services, expanded CFT services, job/skill training opportunities and staffing as needed.

## **Juvenile Court Investigations and Services**

Probation officers in the Juvenile Unit conduct case investigations and prepare social study reports used by the Court, District Attorney and Public Defender during negotiations and to inform court disposition and treatment recommendations. Negotiations might involve the DA and PD exploring options to best meet the need of youth and at the same time foster accountability. Officers develop the recommendations for these reports using the Automon Case Management System and JAIS assessment tool during the post-findings child and family interview.

A probation officer is assigned to the intake function of the department. They process referrals and access all referred juveniles for initial static risk using a validated risk/needs tool. If the individual is a first-time offender, scores low risk on the tool, and the crime is not a mandatory referral they initiate a hold on the referral. Once a hold is initiated, they provide the family with the resources that are available to the family in the community that will potentially address the identified needs of the family. They walk them through the process of accessing these services and attempt to empower the parents to take a role in securing services. We also educate them on the juvenile justice process so that they know what benefits and potential consequences they are facing during and after the diversion process. The officer remains a resource to the family after the intake and diversion process. They can access the services of the officer at any time during the process. If the minor is six months free from further referrals or does not rise to the level of need for further intervention, then they will not be formally processed. The goal is that hopefully the matter is either an aberrant period of behavior and/or the matter can be handled successfully at the lowest level to avoid pulling a minor into the system, that would otherwise, thrive without such an intervention. This model not only conserves resources across the board, but also recognizes that intervening at a high level when unnecessary could increase a minor's risk to re-offend.

Officers serve as presenters in the juvenile courtroom where they guide non-detained youth and families into the courtroom, provide last-minute case information and research probation issues at the Court's request. When hearings conclude, probation officers provide families and youth relevant information about the case and next steps. Additionally, officers in this division work with victims of the alleged crimes while developing the social study reports and seek restitution on their behalf.

Diversion is predicated on the belief that formal system processing and/or incarceration has criminogenic effects and that alternatives such as decriminalization, deinstitutionalization, and diversion are better for long-term youth development.

Intake Diversion Protocols are also supported by the following research:

Davidson, William S., Robin Redner, Craig H. Blakely, James G. Eristoff, and Christina M. Mitchell. 1987. "Diversion of Juvenile Offenders: An Experimental Comparison." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 55(1):68 -75., Smith, Emilie Phillips, Angela M. Wolf, Dan M. Cantillon, Oseela Thomas, William S. Davison. 2004. "The Adolescent Diversion Project: 25 Years of Research on an Ecological Model of Intervention." *Prevention & Intervention in the Community* 27(2):29 -47.

### **Truancy Intervention Program**

A probation officer is assigned as the truancy liaison to all local school districts. That officer participates in the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), School Attendance Mediation (SAM), Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (SMART), and Community Agencies United for Safe Schools and Safe Streets (CAUSSSS). From these sources as well as directly from the school's sites and districts the officer receives truancy referrals. They then work with the parents to gain their buy-in to develop a program that provides the resources needed specific to that family, to eliminate any barriers the family is facing that is seen as the cause of the minor's truancy.

The program involves supporting the parent, while offering a full scope of services in a holistic approach. There is a schedule of rewards and sanctions for behavior that includes a variety of responses up to gift cards for positive behavior and truancy court for negative behavior, all the while providing the family with support and resources. All the groups mentioned above are collaborative stakeholder groups that engage in this program. The program has the full support of the school districts and Nevada County Office of Education. The officer assigned, does regular outreach to school staff to inform them of the program and benefits of the program. School staff are committed to keeping youth in the most appropriate educational setting. Throughout the year, we monitor referrals and their

trends. At the end of the year, we use the data collected to determine at what level of intervention we start to see a correlation between the intervention and improved school attendance.

It is believed and noted several critical elements that were necessary for effective programming: (1) parent/guardian involvement, (2) a continuum of services, to include meaningful incentives, consequences and support, (3) collaboration with community resources --including law enforcement, mental health services, mentoring and social services, (4) school administrative support and commitment to keeping youth in the educational mainstream, and (5) ongoing evaluation.

Truancy Intervention Protocols are also supported by the following research:  
The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children.

### **Juvenile Field Services**

Once a justice-involved youth has been adjudicated and placed on probation, sometimes following a period of detention at the Placer County Detention Center, the case is referred to Probation's Juvenile Field Services. The first step in the juvenile field supervision assignment process is candidacy assessment, through a structured interview to engage and motivate the youth and the family. Officers meet with youth subject to a WIC §602 petition, to renew and update their risk-and-needs assessment, in collaboration with the youth's family/legal guardian, to determine their risk to recidivate and to identify strengths and areas of need. The assessment results drive the dynamic and individualized case planning process with an emphasis on criminogenic risk and protective factors. Through this guided process, evidence-based programs within the community are discussed and explored with the youth and family. Referrals to community-based providers are made on-site and connection to service is timely. Supervision and support are provided by case managing officers who further collaborate with service providers, youth, families, and natural supports.

Probation contacts and provides an array of effective intervention strategies for those most at-risk and most in-need to prevent or reduce acute illness, high-risk behaviors, and incarceration. Targeted behaviors will include:

Family circumstances and parenting; education/employment; peer relations; substance abuse; leisure and recreation activities; personality/behaviors; and attitudes/orientation. Through a trauma informed approach, the selected contractor will work in collaboration with probation officers, youth, families, advocates, educators, and natural supports to ensure the youth's needs are being met.

Community-based Supervision is based on the school districts where youth on probation attend. This is designed to give officers increased access to youth during the school day which provides a better opportunity to supervise and support them in the community. This innovative method of supervision partners, probation officers with school districts are positively impacting educational outcomes for Probation youth.

Juvenile Field officers supervise both community and “office” cases, which allows youth to be moved between the two caseload types based upon their assessed needs and compliance with Probation. This approach increases supervision efficiency, education, and advocacy, and promotes healthy relationships between youth and officers. Further, there is improved information-sharing among school resource officers (LE), teachers, and counselors. Through a fluid case planning process that often includes Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings, officers work with youth, families, and community-based providers to ensure service needs are met.

Probation officers provide case management services to youth on probation who are experiencing mental health disorders and sexual exploitation. Through collaborative partnerships across systems, higher risk youth and families are supported through a teaming process, Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and/or CFT meetings, which may occur in a mental health full service partnership program or through Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) specific programming as described in detail below. Youth and families are referred to community-based programs to support their varying needs which may include family based services, psychiatric services, cognitive based individual or group therapy, trauma related curriculums, youth advocates, life skills and/or educational/vocational training opportunities. Officers receive specific training to support the complex needs of the youth and families.

### **Commercially Sexually Exploited Children:**

Since 2014, the California Legislature has invested in the child welfare system's capacity to identify and serve CSEC, while simultaneously shifting away from criminalization. Nevada County has utilized a multi-layered set of strategies to strengthen the ability of front-line staff and employees to engage, serve and support CSEC and their families. Nevada County's CSEC Steering Committee includes representatives from Probation, Juvenile Court, education, law enforcement, the Public Defender, the District Attorney, Public Health, BHS, and community-based organizations.

A Screening Assessment Tool is conducted on every youth booked into a YDF to identify youth believed to be CSEC. CSEC youth are placed on the caseloads of specially trained probation officers. The officers meet with CSEC youth to discuss their current situation and make recommendations to the court. Additionally, probation officers may participate in MDT meetings with attorneys, Child Welfare Services, counselors, youth advocates and other providers connected to these cases. The Protocol states CSEC must be understood as child abuse and reported as such, children should not be criminalized for their sexual exploitation, responses to CSEC youth should be victim centered, trauma-informed, strength-based, developmentally appropriate, culturally competent, data and outcome driven, and in the best interest of the child.

Youth who were not booked into the Placer County Detention Center, but placed on probation by the Juvenile Court, are also provided a CSEC assessment by the Juvenile Intake Unit. Officers ensure compliance to Senate Bill (SB) 794 and are highly trained on the topic of human trafficking, victimization and pimping, intervention strategies, harm reduction, trauma informed care, and services specific to CSEC.

### **Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**

California State Bill 1004 (2016) Pilot Program began in counties of Nevada, Alameda, Napa, Butte, and Sutter. Juvenile Probation Officers are responsible for providing case management services and support to people ages

18-25 under the jurisdiction of the Court. These young adults receive assessment and case planning that includes referrals to services to meet identified needs. Referrals are focused on specialized treatment, education, vocational training, and other supports as needed, such as food and emergency housing. The goal of TAY is to provide clients with assessment, treatment, supervision, and support necessary to promote rehabilitation and to prevent re-offending, resulting in a safer community.

In summary, all 18-25-year-old young adults arrested on new felony charges are assessed by probation staff. If found eligible and suitable for the program, they will be assigned a Probation Officer who will complete a case plan and start the process of plugging TAYs into community-based services that may include, but are not limited to, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Moral Recognition Therapy, Mental Health Therapy, Education, and Vocational Training.

### **Juvenile Sex Offender Officer**

Youth adjudicated for a violation of Penal Code §288 or a reasonably related offense are placed on a specialized caseload. This caseload is managed by the Juvenile Sex Offender Officer in collaboration with treatment providers (when applicable) and the parent/legal guardian(s). Sexually abusive justice-involved youth participate in outpatient treatment designed to reduce the likelihood of re-offense and promote prosocial development. These youth are provided multiple assessments to inform individualized treatment plans, treatment progress and timing of termination services. The treatment plans generally combine individual and group treatment sessions, relapse prevention strategies and family counseling to support successful program completion. Consistent with best practices, probation officers work in collaboration with treatment providers and families and maintain weekly contact to monitor each juvenile's progress, ensure their needs are being met and ensure they are in compliance with the terms and conditions of their probation.

### **Placement Services**

Family maintenance is the primary goal of rehabilitation; however, there are cases where it is in the best interest of a minor on probation and the community to place the youth in an alternative Foster Care setting which may

include a resource family or a short term residential therapeutic program (STRTP). A specially trained Probation Placement Officer is responsible for the supervision of these youth.

The children's services Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) efforts launched by the State in 2012 produced recommendations aimed at improving outcomes for youth removed from their homes and placed in congregate or foster care. In 2015, Assembly Bill (AB) 403 was approved by the Governor to further CCR efforts. Under the new law, group homes must be restructured to comply with new licensure requirements to provide short-term specialized and intensive treatment and will only be used for children whose needs cannot be safely met initially in a family setting. Services are designed to transition youth back home or to another permanent family as soon as possible. All placement decisions utilize the Child and Family Teaming process.

Assembly Bill 2083 (Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018) requires each county to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the roles and responsibilities of the various local entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma. A local MOU will be designed to ensure that all public programs for children, youth and families will provide services in an integrated, comprehensive, culturally responsive, evidence-based/best practice manner, regardless of how they enter our system. This mission includes an awareness of and a commitment to incorporate foster youth experience and voice into county level collaborations and partnerships that manage or oversee the delivery of services affecting youth in foster care.

### **In State Placement**

Focuses on placing youth in appropriate residential treatment facilities located within the State of California. These cases are staffed by the Placement Committee (PC) designed to promote collaborative planning and coordination of services for youth and their families. The PC includes representatives from Probation, Child Welfare Services, Sierra Forever Families, Victor Community Support Services, Children's Behavioral Health and Foster Youth Services (Nevada County Department of Education). Residential treatment facilities must be designated as STRTPs to be utilized by Probation. With the upcoming Family First Prevention Services Act and the likelihood of more restrictions

on placing kids in congregate care going forward, probation will look much more towards preventative measures to keep kids out of placement settings.

### **Out of State Placement**

The department no longer places youth out of state.

### **Extended Foster Care (AB 12)**

Foster care provides resources for non-minor dependents (450 WI) or Extended Foster Care (EFC) youth who would normally exit placement without any assistance, services or reunification with parents or legal guardians. The goal of AB 12 is to ensure this population leaves foster care with the practical skills to achieve their potential and succeed in life. The initiative focuses on providing a safety net of financial assistance, services, and ongoing support to these young adults as they age out of foster care. Placement currently has staff assigned to manage the unique challenges of this population by providing case management and supervision to these young adults as they transition to adulthood.

### **Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support**

Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRRS) is a time-limited, multi-year project under CCR and is financially support by CDSS to recruit, retain and support foster caregivers with additional allowable expenditures such as: staffing, removal of barriers, intensive family finding, and other nontraditional outreach approaches to potential foster family homes, resource families, and relatives. Our goal is to increase home-based care capacity of those willing to accept a placement youth served by Probation. Officers' recruitment efforts include intensive family finding, community outreach, advertising, a media campaign, and technical assistance from an expert in the FPRRS effort.

## **B. Identifying and Prioritizing Focus Areas**

**Identify and prioritize the neighborhoods, schools, and other areas of the county that face the most significant public safety risk from juvenile crime.**

Nevada County was established in 1851 at the height of the gold rush. It covers 974 square miles. Nevada County is a rural county that extends from the foothills to into the Sierra Nevada Mountains with its highest point reaching 9,152 feet. There are three distinct population centers within the County. In the eastern portion of the county is the Town of Truckee located in the Sierra Nevada. This is the fastest growing area of the county. The other population centers are approximately 60 miles away in the western portion of the county, those being the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City. Nonetheless, 67% of the county's population resides in unincorporated areas. US census data puts the county population at 98,292. (Census.Gov)

The population in Nevada County is fairly dispersed as illustrated by 62% of the population living in unincorporated areas. Also, given the topography of the county, there is a high level of disconnectedness from the city centers. The same goes for juvenile crime. There doesn't seem to be a pattern or prevalence relative to neighborhoods or parts of the county. Given the diverse recreational opportunities available in the county there are areas such as Truckee that receive a significant number of juvenile referrals from juveniles residing out of the county for behaviors related to them being in Nevada County for vacation and/or other recreational activities. As far as schools go, the current populations in our schools is down about 50% from their peak about a decade ago. There has been a decline of about 25% in the entire juvenile demographic over the past decade. We have also looked at socio-economic issues at these schools, as determined by the number of students receiving free or reduced lunches, when deciding on resource allocation. Our delinquency referral rates are currently extremely low (partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic) but generally coincide with population trends. For example, Truckee and Grass valley have the highest number of referrals as they have the greatest concentration of youth in the county.

### **C. Juvenile Justice Action Strategy**

Describe your county's juvenile justice action strategy. Include an explanation of your county's continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency as well as a description of the approach used to ensure a collaborative and integrated approach for implementing a system of swift, certain, and graduated responses for at-risk youth and juvenile offenders.

The Nevada County Juvenile Justice System is composed of several agencies which have direct responsibility for various functions in the system. These agencies include law enforcement, the Office of the District Attorney (District Attorney), the Office of the Public Defender (Public Defender), Nevada County Juvenile Court (Juvenile Court) and the Nevada County Probation Department (Probation).

The basic function of these agencies as they relate to the Juvenile Justice System is as follows:

Law enforcement provides first response to emergencies and other threats to public safety. Officers investigate suspected delinquent activity and determine if juvenile suspects will be: 1) verbally warned and released; 2) referred to a community resource agency or law enforcement diversion program; 3) issued a citation; or 4) taken into custody. If an officer determines a juvenile should be taken into custody, he/she will bring the juvenile to the Placer County Detention Center.

When a youth is brought to PCDC by law enforcement, staff administers a detention risk assessment to assist in determining if the juvenile can be released without increased risk to public safety or if he/she should be detained at the facility. If detained, the case is referred to the District Attorney so that a statutorily mandated detention hearing can occur. As an alternative to incarceration, some youth may be released on home supervision or electronic monitoring, with Global Positioning System (GPS) capabilities, pending their scheduled detention hearing. Youth are diverted from detention and further involvement in the Juvenile Justice System whenever possible. During the Juvenile Court hearing process, Probation provides shelter and care for each juvenile detained at the PCDC. An assessment of the juvenile's criminogenic risks/needs and a social history report are completed for dispositional consideration post-adjudication. After the hearing process, Probation supervises youth who have

been placed on probation by the Juvenile Court. Supervision and case planning are based on the results of an actuarial risk/needs assessment. Probation responses to behavior are based upon a behavior response matrix.

The District Attorney is responsible for filing petitions based on referrals from other agencies. Probation makes referrals related to the provisions of WIC §602. The District Attorney represents the community at all subsequent Juvenile Court hearings.

The Public Defender represents youth in juvenile justice hearings resulting from petitions filed by the District Attorney and related to WIC §602. Alternatively, a court-appointed or private attorney may be employed for this purpose in the place of a Public Defender attorney should a conflict arise.

The Juvenile Court is responsible for hearing facts, making findings, and providing a disposition for petitions filed by the District Attorney related to WIC §601 and §602.

#### **D. Comprehensive Plan Revisions**

##### **Describe how your Plan has been updated for this year.**

Upon the closure of the Nevada County Youth Center, the Probation Department is expanding its efforts in early intervention and prevention. As such, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker will team up with our School Liaison Officers to identify risks/needs during early intervention with kids who are referred to the SLO program. Plugging these kids into specific, appropriate services upon completing an assessment will decrease the likelihood of criminal referrals in the future. The plan has been updated to reflect these changes from last year.

#### **Part II. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)**

(Government Code Section 30061(b)(4))

## **A. Information Sharing and Data**

**Describe your information systems and their ability to facilitate the sharing of data across agencies within your county. Describe the data obtained through these systems and how those data are used to measure the success of juvenile justice programs and strategies.**

Probation uses a variety of methods to share information across agencies within the county. Multiagency disciplinary teams including Juvenile Justice System partners have been developed to coordinate case planning for youth associated with specific populations/programs including crossover youth, placement and Title IV-E. Memorandums of understanding are in place between Probation and various system partners to share information for specific programing, and community-based organizations provide reports to Probation regarding youth referred to their programs.

Probation's primary case management system is the Automon Information System. Automon is a dynamic web-based application available to Probation staff. The Automon application empowers the user with flexible search and case management features. Information regarding warrants, booking, arrest history, addresses, and approved family visitors is available to Probation staff in real time. Multiple Automon reports have been developed to pull specific data for reporting purposes.

Within Automon, program components contain information related to risk and needs assessments, detention risk assessments, juvenile referrals, and supervision levels.

Probation utilizes the dynamic JAIS risk and needs assessment tools. These tools allow Probation to measure changes in risk over time and can be used to evaluate the impact specific programing has on a youth's risk factors.

For some programs, data to track and evaluate outcomes will be pulled from the JAIS risk and needs assessment tool reports, in addition to Probation records and databases, such as Booking, Intake and Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

**B. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils**

Does your county have a fully constituted Juvenile Justice Council (JJCC) as prescribed by Welfare & institutions Code 749.22?

Yes

**C. Funded Programs, Strategies and/or System Enhancements****PROGRAM NAME:**

School Liaison Officers

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Midwest Regional Center for Drug-Free School and Communities 1994, Northeast Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies 1999. This is in addition to all the interventions are run through the PEW Result First Clearinghouse to ensure they get a rating that indicates that they are evidence based. ART is an example of this effort.

**Description:**

Currently there is industry wide discussion regarding the commonly referenced school to prison pipeline. There is current legislation trying to get at the belief that children are being funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. There is also a belief that police in schools lead to students being criminalized for behavior that should or would normally be handled inside the school setting. At the same time there is a call to increase counseling and social work in schools. Given the natural and trained skillsets of probation officers, it is felt they are in a unique position to assist with those concerns.

Using data points such as suspensions, expulsions, criminal referrals as well as SMART and SARB referrals, 5 schools in western Nevada County were identified as being a higher risk than others. School Liaison Officers are assigned

to regularly serve these schools as they receive referrals from the principals. They serve the other schools in the county including Truckee on an “as-needed” basis. The referrals to Probation are not focused on discipline, rather bridging the gap between need and service. The aim is to provide services to youth in the school setting and may include direct service, case management and service referrals.

It is believed that prevention programs should teach a variety of general life skills for helping youth deal with the challenges of adolescent life. Accordingly, certain skills have emerged as critical to preventing and reducing substance abuse and violent behavior including communication, assertiveness, media resistance, resistance training, social problem-solving, character/belief development, empathy and perspective taking, stress management and coping, and anger management or impulse control.

This year will be especially trying for many young people as they transition from spending close to a year at home with distance learning to being back on a campus. SLO’s will work closely with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker to identify risks/needs during early intervention with kids who are referred to the program. The LCSW will be able to help plug these kids into specific, appropriate services upon completing an assessment. They will also have the capacity to facilitate group and individual meetings such as Anger Replacement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, a therapy that is often used to treat anxiety, which many kids undoubtedly face now.

Program Objective: Increase school safety through providing emotional and behavioral support. Prevent young people from being pulled into the criminal justice system by identifying and addressing risks/needs at early stages in their lives, rather than after they become justice involved.

Target issues or behaviors include: Truancy, anti-social behaviors, drug and alcohol use, students with anti-social peers, bullying, family stressors, mental health concerns, lack of pro-social recreation or activity and students that appear to be struggling in some capacity.

**PROGRAM NAME:**

Truancy Intervention Program

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children noted several critical elements that were necessary for effective programming: (1) parent/guardian involvement, (2) a continuum of services, to include meaningful incentives, consequences and support, (3) collaboration with community resources -including law enforcement, mental health services, mentoring and social services, (4) school administrative support and commitment to keeping youth in the educational mainstream, and (5) ongoing evaluation.

**Description:**

A probation officer is assigned as the truancy liaison to all local school districts. That officer participates in the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), School Attendance Mediation (SAM), Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (SMART), and Community Agencies United for Safe Schools and Safe Streets (CAUSSSS). From these sources as well as directly from the school's sites and districts the officer receives truancy referrals. They then work with the parents to gain their buy-in to develop a program that provides the resources needed specific to that family to eliminate any barriers the family is facing that is seen as the cause of the minor's truancy.

The program involves supporting the parent, while offering a full scope of services in a holistic approach. There is a schedule of rewards and sanctions for behavior that includes a variety of responses up to gift cards for positive behavior and truancy court for negative behavior. All the while providing the family with support and resources. All the groups mentioned above are collaborative stakeholder groups that engage in this program. The program has the full support of the school districts and Nevada County Office of Education. The officer assigned does regular outreach to school staff to inform them of the program and benefits of the program. School staff are committed to keeping youth in the most appropriate educational setting. Throughout the year we monitor referrals and trends

of those referrals. At the end of the year we use the data collected to determine at what level of intervention we start to see a correlation between the intervention and improved school attendance.

**PROGRAM NAME:**

Intake Diversion

**Evidence Upon Which It is Based:**

Davidson, William S., Robin Redner, Craig H. Blakely, James G. Eristoff, and Christina M. Mitchell. 1987. "Diversion of Juvenile Offenders: An Experimental Comparison." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* 55(1):68 -75.

Smith, Emilie Phillips, Angela M. Wolf, Dan M. Cantillon, Oseela Thomas, William S. Davison. 2004. "The Adolescent Diversion Project: 25 Years of Research on an Ecological Model of Intervention." *Prevention & Intervention in the Community* 27(2):29 -47.

**Description:**

A probation officer is assigned to the intake function of the department. They process referrals and access all referred juveniles for initial static risk using a validated risk/needs tool. If the individual is a first-time offender, scores low risk on the tool, and the crime is not a mandatory referral they initiate a hold on the referral. Once a hold is initiated, they educate the family on the resources that are available to the family in the community that will potentially address the identified needs of the family. They walk them through the process of accessing these services and attempt to empower the parents to take a role in securing services. We also educate them on the juvenile justice process so that they know what benefits and potential consequences they are facing during and after the diversion process. The officer remains a resource to the family after the intake and diversion process. They can access the services of the officer at any time during the process. If the minor goes six months free from further referrals or does not rise to the level of need for further intervention, then they will not be formally processed. The goal is that hopefully the matter is either an aberrant period of behavior and/or the matter can be handled successfully at the lowest level to avoid pulling a minor into the system that would otherwise thrive

without such an intervention. This model not only conserves resources across the board, but also recognizes that intervening at a high level when unnecessary could increase a minor's risk to re-offend.

### **Part III. Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) (Welfare & Institutions Code Section 1961(a))**

#### **A. Strategy for Non-707(b) Offenders**

**Describe your county's overall strategy for dealing with non-707(b) youthful offenders who are not eligible for commitment to the Division of Juvenile Justice. Explain how this Plan relates to or supports that strategy.**

The strategy is to create and follow case plans, which are designed to identify youth's static and dynamic characteristics, traits, problems, or issues of an individual that directly relate to their likelihood to re-offend and commit another crime, providing a “road map” for how to best address these needs. Thus, case plans enhance all JJCPA funded programs.

#### **B. Regional Agreement**

At this time there are no regional agreements or arrangements to be supported with YOBG funds.

#### **PROGRAM NAME:**

Functional Family Probation (FFP)

#### **Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

Historically, traditional supervision models are commonly organized to where a P.O. monitors specific youth on their own caseload. Not as much effort went towards officers working collaboratively with each other to target intervention skills with the whole family or identify key supports for the youth as we do with FFP. Probation officers using an FFP based approach employ the support of family and/or community members. Officers meet weekly to staff cases to ensure strengthening the family functioning (as a whole) and creating a broad network of positive relationships within the community.

**Description:**

FFP is our supervision model that replaced a more traditional supervision model which focused mainly on monitoring adjudicated youth. One of the shortcomings of this approach was that officers paid little attention to family dynamics. A strength of FFP is that it employs the support of family and/or community members. By strengthening family functioning and creating broader working relationships, we greatly increase the likelihood for long term success with the youth we're charged to supervise. The data we have accrued shows that by enlisting the support of the essential people in a youth's life and having them work together we can begin to alter the context from which problem behaviors occur.

The Functional Family Probation process includes protocols, practices, services and supports to treat the youth, family, and community, increase protective factors with the youth and family, reduce high risk factors and reduce juvenile criminal recidivism.

Austin, Denise Lynmarie, "Bringing Functional Family Probation Services to the Community: A Qualitative Case Study" (2013). *Dissertations and Theses*. Paper 1436.

**PROGRAM NAME:**

Case Coordinators

**Nature of Coordination with JJCPA:**

Case Coordinators collaborate with other juvenile officers to ensure that all barriers such as housing, medication, school enrollment, vocational deficiencies, and transportation are addressed prior to release. They also interact closely with School Liaison Officers to help with youths' transition from in-custody learning to mainstream schooling.

**Description:**

A Probation Officer now acts as the Case Coordinator for our youth when detained at Placer County Detention Center. They are responsible for providing case plan documentation, determining risks and needs and for matching youth with services and programs available in the PCDC. They are also responsible for making regular contact with the youths' parents or guardians to ensure parents are fully aware of visiting times, obtain any necessary medical treatment authorization, and to provide progress reports. In some cases, home passes are given prior to an outright release from the Placer County Detention Center to ease the youth back into the community. A priority is to tie them in with service providers for a warm handoff and provide a solid continuum of care relative to the needs of the youth.